

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY – 17th MARCH

St. Patrick was a Christian missionary who converted Ireland from paganism to Christianity. He lived in the 4th century A.D. The legend

says that St. Patrick miraculously drove snakes out from



Ireland by banging a drum. They represent paganism. To explain the doctrine of the Trinity, St. Patrick compared a shamrock



(similar to a three-leaf clover) with its three leaves to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. From that time the shamrock has been the symbol of the land. Irishmen wear it in their hats on the saint's day. March 17th is the anniversary of the death of Saint Patrick. In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is a holy, religious time with praying, singing and dancing.

Ireland's nickname is "The Emerald Isle" because the grass on the hills is so green. Everyone wears the colour green on St. Patrick's Day to honour The Emerald Isle. Some of the biggest St. In some places people celebrate the day by colouring their rivers green!



The leprechaun is Ireland's national fairy. Leprechauns are represented as shoemakers and are often drunk. They are guardians of ancient treasures and they keep gold coins in pots that they hide at the



end of a rainbow. If you catch a leprechaun, he will promise

you pots of gold if you let him go free.



The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence. It is difficult because you must lie down on your back and bend your head backwards and downwards.